



DLEG and Its Main Components A Snapshot View

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) promotes economic growth and job creation in Michigan by centralizing and streamlining all of the state's job development, workforce development, and economic development functions under one umbrella.

The basic, guiding principles of the department include building on our strength; protecting our manufacturing base, but continuing to diversify; working on workforce development issues and integrating training and re-training in everything we do; welcoming diversity and immigrants to our communities; and focusing on urban policy.

We will be aggressive in creating and attracting jobs. We will collaborate and participate in strategic partnerships. Our key words are collaboration, inclusion, integrity, and measurable outcome.

DLEG is a department of more than 4,000 staff members who work as a team in partnership with Michigan's families, workers, businesses, and industries to make Michigan the magnet state for the best the world has to offer.

DLEG's Main Components Are:

The Executive Office

David Hollister, Director (517) 373-1820

Dennis Sykes, Deputy Director

Robert Swanson, Deputy Director

David Plawecki, Deputy Director

The Executive Office works together with the Governor and other state departments to set goals and an agenda that keep Michigan moving forward.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

Donald Jakeway, President (517) 335-4541

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) partners with communities across the state to lead Michigan's economic development and job creation efforts. It's been recognized as one of the nation's most effective economic development organizations. The MEDC also administers Michigan's Technology Tri-Corridor, which strives to make the state a leader in the high-growth field of the life sciences, homeland security, and advanced automotive technology. MEDC's Travel Michigan unit promotes the state as a premiere leisure destination.

The Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA)

James W. Butler, III, Director (517) 241-2121

The Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA) works to expand broadband access for the state's citizens and businesses. High-speed access is a necessity in today's world and the Michigan Broadband Authority provides low-cost financing to public and private-sector organizations for the acquisition of hardware, software, and services that will improve or increase their use of broadband technologies.

The Office of Workforce Development (OWD)

Brenda Njiwaji, Acting Director (517) 241-4000

The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) helps equip individuals with the skills needed for the jobs of today and the future, and it helps maintain a well-trained labor pool. It administers several programs that are designed to provide persons with the assistance they need.

The Employment Service Agency (ESA) helps workers find jobs and helps employers find workers. It accomplishes this through such services as the Michigan Talent Bank, veterans' programs, programs for migrant and seasonal workers, and the Alien Labor Certification Program. ESA also collects, develops, analyzes, and disseminates labor market information.

Career Education

Deb LaPine, Director (517) 241-4000

The Office of Adult Education provides opportunities for adult students to achieve education levels equivalent to those of high-school graduates, and to build their careers on a foundation of quality instruction. The Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs (COSSA) develops policies and plans to serve the needs of Michigan's Spanish-speaking people.

The Office of Career and Technical Preparation (OCTP) has responsibility for the major career education programs and initiatives that affect students K-12 and beyond. Staff members are involved in curriculum development activities, grant planning and management, and providing professional development for teachers and administrators throughout the state.

The Office of Postsecondary Services helps students gain access to postsecondary education that is appropriate to their career goals. This office includes the Community College Services Unit, which assists colleges in planning and improvement efforts, and oversees some federal funding for students in occupational programs; the Proprietary Schools Unit, which reviews proprietary schools operating in Michigan for compliance with minimum quality and performance standards; the King-Chavez-Parks Initiative, whose goal is to achieve parity in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to students traditionally underrepresented in higher education; the Educational Corporation Unit, which ensures that educational enterprises that want to offer degree programs in Michigan meet minimum standards of quality; and the Veterans Education Unit, which approves educational and technical/trade programs for training veterans.

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) helps people to help others. It strives to enable Michiganians to engage in public problem-solving through service and volunteerism. It also recognizes and celebrates the exemplary efforts of Michigan's volunteers.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)

Jaye N. Balthazar, Director (517) 373-3390

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) helps Michigan residents with disabilities achieve employment and self-sufficiency. It serves people in their communities through a network of field offices staffed by rehabilitation counselors. Michigan Rehabilitation Services also administers the Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), which has provided training for adults with disabilities in Michigan since 1944.

The Michigan Commission for the Blind
Patrick D. Cannon, Director (517) 373-2062

The Michigan Commission for the Blind provides opportunities to blind persons to achieve employability and/or function independently in society. It serves approximately 4,000 persons annually through its educational, training, and rehabilitation programs.

The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns
Duncan Wyeth, Director (517) 334-8000

The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, which includes the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, provides training, technical assistance, and advocacy for Michigan's 1.9 million individuals with disabilities.

The Energy Office
R. Thomas Martin, Director (517) 241-4580

The Energy Office provides energy efficiency and renewal energy resource development to Michigan residents, businesses, and public institutions.

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety
Henry Green, Director (517) 241-9302

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety ensures that consistent regulations and uniform standards are in place to better serve its clients while keeping the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan's citizens as the highest priority.

The Bureau of Commercial Services
Andrew Metcalf, Jr., Director (517) 241-9223

The Bureau of Commercial Services is responsible for assuring that more than 325,000 licensees for 27 different commercial occupations meet the minimum standards for operating in Michigan. The bureau maintains public records, issues licenses, and conducts investigations to ensure that the people and businesses performing services or conducting business are operating legally and competently.

The Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS)
Linda A. Watters, Director (517) 335-3167

The Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) regulates Michigan's insurance industry as well as banks, credit unions, mortgage companies, auto finance companies, and securities companies. This helps assure that the wages, savings, and investments of Michigan families are safe.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA)
Doug Kalinowski, Director (517) 322-1817

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) is committed to protecting Michigan workers through a combination of outreach, education, and enforcement. Businesses with strong workplace safety records have an improved bottom line.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC)
Nida R. Samona, Chair (517) 322-1345

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) protects Michigan families through a comprehensive screening process when issuing liquor licenses. Revenues from the sale of liquor

go into the state's general fund and provide grants to cities for fire protection, substance abuse programs, convention facilities, school aid, and local governments.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)

J. Peter Lark, Chair (517) 241-6190

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) administers policies and regulations to ensure that energy, communications, and transportation services are provided in an efficient, reliable, and safe manner to adequately meet the needs of Michigan residents.

The Michigan Tax Tribunal

Jack VanCoevering, Director (517) 334-6521

The Michigan Tax Tribunal is a tax court with original and exclusive jurisdiction over property tax issues. Like other courts, the Tax Tribunal conducts hearings and renders written decisions based on the evidence submitted.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

Michael DeVos, Director (517) 373-8370

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve decent, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents. MSHDA helps nurture Michigan's families and economic growth with initiatives that include the Children's Action Network, Grow Michigan/Cool Cities, the Flint Area Technology and Internet Initiative, the Michigan Childhood Lead Paint Program, and the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council.

The Bureau of Employment Relations (BER)

Ruthanne Okun, Director (313) 456-3510

The Bureau of Employment Relations (BER) helps resolve labor disputes involving employers and labor organizations. The bureau works to ensure that the labor relations processes function well, thereby creating and promoting a positive labor climate in which businesses can thrive and grow, and employees prosper.

The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA)

Sharon Bommarito, Director (313) 456-2400

The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) helps jobless workers and their families by providing a temporary income while the workers are unemployed and seeking new employment. Unemployment insurance helps employers by keeping a skilled work force on hand until jobs become available. It also aids the economy as unemployment insurance benefits are "high velocity" dollars that are used quickly to purchase local goods and services.

The Workers' Compensation Agency

Craig Petersen, Director (517) 322-1106

The Workers' Compensation Agency provides wage replacement, medical, and rehabilitation benefits to men and women who are injured at work.

The Wage & Hour Division

John H. Finn, Director (517) 322-1825

The Wage & Hour Division administers the laws that protect the wages and fringe benefits of Michigan's workers, and provide for the safe and legal employment of minors.

The METRO Authority (Metropolitan Extension Telecommunication Rights-of-Oversight Act)

Melvin Farmer, Jr., Director (517) 335-5448

Promotes new telecommunications services, providers, technology; encourages competition in availability, prices.

The Land Bank Fast Track Authority

Semone James, Director (517) 335-7810

The Authority allows properties that have reverted to state ownership due to failure to pay taxes to move through an expedited title clearing process. These tax reverted properties can be ready for sale and redevelopment in less than one year, reducing blight, eyesores, and unproductive and obsolete spaces in neighborhoods across the state.

The Office of Human Resources

Rita Canady, Director (517) 373-3628

Human Resources is responsible for employee hiring and benefit issues, and manages policies and procedures to continually improve the Department of Labor & Economic Growth's work environment.

The Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

R. Thomas Martin, Director (517) 241-4580

The Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs maintains contact with lawmakers to advocate for changes in state and federal laws that affect departmental programs.

The Office of Finance and Administrative Services

Allan R. Pohl, Director (517) 373-3795

Finance and Administrative Services has responsibility for the business operations of DLEG.

The Office of Media and Public Relations

Maura Campbell, Director (517) 373-9280

The Office of Media and Public Relations responds to inquiries from the news media, issues news releases about important developments in programs and services, and provides public information and news of internal departmental events and policies.

The Office of Media Technology

David Callanan, Director (313) 456-2950

The Office of Media Technology provides graphic arts, publications, and forms design services. This unit also provides enhanced audio-visual support, and cable television and video production.

Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives

Rick Waclawek, Director (313) 456-3090

The Office of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives is the official source of a wide array of information on Michigan's labor market; whether it's information on jobs, unemployment, wages, industries, or occupations.

State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules

Peter Plummer, Director

The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR), created within DLEG by Executive Order 2005-1, became effective March 27, 2005. SOAHR centralizes state government functions related to conducting administrative hearings and the processing and promulgation of administrative rules.

Worker's Compensation Magistrates

Jack Nolish, Chair (517) 241-9381

The Board of Magistrates is responsible for hearing contested workers' disability compensation cases.

MES Board of Review

Kathleen Markman, Director (517) 241-7333

This agency is an autonomous, quasi-judicial body and is the final administrative appellate step within the unemployment compensation system. The Board processes and decides appeals from the decisions and orders issued by Unemployment Agency referees in contested unemployment benefits cases.

Worker's Compensation Appellate Commission

William G. Reamon, Jr., Chair (517) 334-9719

The commission provides service to Michigan employees and employers by expeditiously and impartially addressing and resolving their appeal of claims for review of workers' compensation benefits from cases contested before the Workers' Compensation Board of Magistrates.

Internal Audit

Allen Williams, Director (517) 373-3467

The Internal Audit Division performs the independent appraisal function of examining and evaluating departmental activities and organizations.

Cool Cities Coordinating Team

Bob Johnson, Director (517) 373-2129

Bob Johnson and Karen Gagnon coordinate Michigan's highly touted Cool Cities Initiative. They work in close collaboration with contacts in 19 departments of state government and local Cool Cities groups to help cities and neighborhoods revitalize themselves.

Department of Labor & Economic Growth

